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# COVID TREATMENT QuickStart — CONSORTIUM —

Duke

 **aetna**



**COVID**  
Collaborative

## Supporting Equitable Access to Testing and Treatment for COVID-19 in Low-and-Middle Income Countries

*INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER - The [COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium](#) monthly newsletter offers the latest updates from the consortium on upcoming events, project milestones, and recent news.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed significant global inequities in access to therapeutics, vaccines, testing, and other medical interventions that could limit the range and impact of the disease. Access to treatment has become an urgent need to tackle, alongside persistently low primary vaccination and booster rates in many countries. Partners involved in the Quick Start Consortium are committed to ensuring a more equitable scale-up of test-and-treat programs with antiviral medicines in low- and middle-income countries.

The consortium will support governments to introduce and scale up access to diagnostic testing and new and effective COVID-19 oral antiviral therapies in high-risk populations. Partner countries include Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Join us in our work to support governments in bringing urgently needed COVID-19 medicines

## Upcoming Events

### COVID Treatment Quick Start Learning Network Inaugural Meeting: Preparing for the Introduction of COVID-19 Oral Antivirals

7 December 2022

8:00-9:00 am EST // 2:00-3:00 pm CET // 4:00-5:00 pm EAT // 6:30-7:30 pm IST

[Register Here](#)

Please join us for the first meeting of the COVID Treatment Quick Start Learning Network on 7 December.

The [Quick Start Learning Network](#) aims to:

1. Provide a platform for learning and collaboration amongst a diverse set of stakeholders on COVID test-and-treat implementation;
2. Share successes and lessons learned in development and implementation of COVID test-and-treat programs globally to enable rapid dissemination of good practices;
3. Address shared challenges across test-and-treat programs to accelerate implementation; and
4. Inform operational research priorities and provide pathways for dissemination of emerging evidence and insights.

#### DURING THIS INAUGURAL MEETING, WE WILL:

- Introduce the Quick Start Learning Network
- Hear progress on test-and-treat program implementation from MOH leaders in Quick Start-supported countries
- Share initial lessons learned on clinical protocol development for defining high-risk populations—the target population for oral antiviral therapies

The COVID Treatment Quick Start Learning Action will meet monthly and is open to all.



Donated oral antivirals are ready for shipment to our partner countries at Americares Global Distribution Center in the U.S. Our first shipment is soon headed to Zambia to help treat COVID-19 infections in high-risk patients.

*"Zambia is excited to receive the first Quick Start shipment [of donated oral treatments] to treat vulnerable populations and prevent hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19. Through our collaboration with the Quick Start consortium, we have been preparing to initiate the COVID-19 test and treat initiative for the high-risk population. We recognize how critical access to oral antivirals is to saving lives,"* said Dr. Lloyd Mulenga, Zambia Ministry of Health.

## Recent News

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** [Paxlovid Associated with Decreased Hospitalization Rate Among Adults with COVID-19 — United States, April–September 2022](#) (22 November 2022)

**NPR:** [How monoclonal antibodies lost the fight with new COVID variants](#) (20 November 2022)

**AP News:** [Africa CDC chief urges more COVID-19 testing as cases rise](#) (17 November 2022)

**CNN Health:** [Paxlovid reduces risk of long Covid, Veterans Affairs study finds](#) (6 November 2022)

## About Us

The COVID Treatment Quick Start Consortium brings together [Duke University](#), [Americares](#), the [Clinton Health Access Initiative](#) (CHAI), and [COVID Collaborative](#) as implementing partners, with support from the [Open Society Foundations](#), [Pfizer](#) and the [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#). The consortium will support governments to introduce and scale up access to new and effective COVID-19 oral antiviral therapies in high-risk populations. Partner countries include Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Find out more: [covidquickstart.org](https://covidquickstart.org).

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